

the canal. The crossing was made from a front of three miles. Further south they took in an-arrived and Hermines, 3 miles northeast of Hermines. From Hermines the British line runs about a mile and a half east of Hermines.

There was no indication just how strongly the enemy intended to resist on this line and the front northward along the Senne. It is believed he will make an effort at a stand, however, as the canal offers a good line of defense, the huge ditch preceding tank work immediately to the west of Cambrai. The canal is uncompleted further south, however, and the tanks could penetrate the line there, in the opinion of the experts.

It has been definitely established that in trying to stem the drive begun by the Allies on August 8 the Germans have used twenty-five of their divisions twice. Eight other divisions have been re-created and sent back into the fighting, with three companies instead of the normal four to a battalion.

At least two divisions of Austrian troops have been in action.

The British, who are still reported lighter than might be expected in operations of this magnitude.

**Seeks New Line in Flanders.**

The tactics of the Germans in Flanders, where the British line moved slightly forward again to-day, leads to the belief that the enemy intends ultimately to retreat to the line held in 1917. This is east of the Paschendale ridge, where it is reasonable to assume the enemy will at least fight a strong rear-guard action.

The Allies have reduced the length of the battle front in France by nearly sixty miles since July 18 by pressing the British line forward to-day, which they conquered by their offensive of March, April and July. This places at the disposal of the allied commander-in-chief a considerable number of divisions which heretofore had been engaged in holding the line.

French commentators point out that in the present offensive continuity has been maintained for thirty days without a break, and that not since the beginning of the war has such an extended series of hammer blows been directed, throwing the adversary into complete dismay. The enemy is unable to reorganize his forces to make a stand arresting the onward march of the Allies.

**Mangin Gets Upper Hand.**

Gen. Mangin's army has been busily engaged in the last three days overcoming bitter resistance by the Germans to advance in the southern area of the battlefield. His forces have marked time in some instances and at points retreated slightly, but they have now succeeded in restoring the better of the enemy's defense.

Their forward push is threatening the fall of the important town of Coucy-le-Chateau and the fall of this town, in turn, would mean the fall of the entire line. The Germans, however, are retreating the forward movement to the best of their ability, as the fall of the Forest St. Gobain, which is a strategic point, threatening, would entail a retreat of Gen. Von Boehn's army to Laon.

A rupture of the Hindenburg line in the north would thus be a disaster, as the line already has been smashed in the north by British troops a withdrawal of the whole German front from the North Sea to Rheims would then be forced.

The Paris military critics to-day treat mainly of the threatening breach in the Hindenburg line, and are pointing out that the enemy is now forced to forego the use of prepared artificial defenses and to fall back on the natural defenses, which are in a state of disrepair. The only hope of the German command in the present state of disorganization among its divisions.

The enemy, the critics show, will have to fight a series of natural defenses which may help him stay the march of the British armies momentarily. The general assumption is that the German stand will be made along the line of the Canal du Nord, passing west of Marquion, east of Inchey-en-Artois, and from Moeuvres to Hermines.

There is every sign of extreme disorganization among the enemy's forces at vulnerable points in his line. To the north of Peronne, along a front extending many kilometers, troops are being have been promiscuously collected, and thirty battalions of this heterogeneous fighting material have been thrown haphazardly into the breach.

**GERMANS ENDEAVOR TO BOLSTER UP HOPE**

**Press Says American Assistance Cannot Turn Tide.**

By the Associated Press.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, Sept. 4 (delayed).—Although asserting that the German command is not underestimating the value of American help in an active military way to the Allies, the Cologne Gazette of August 25 tells its readers that the American assistance will not be sufficient to turn the tide against the Germans, and it purports to find in Gen. Foch's persistently aggressive policy a fear that he is uncertain about the help he may expect from the American forces.

"Our General Staff," says the newspaper, "had estimated that on May 1 there would be about half a million American combat troops in France, but had foreseen their entrance into the battle their actual appearance caused it no surprise, nor will it in the future underestimate the value of the American support."

"This help has been coming in quickly and steadily, but it is insufficient to turn the tide in favor of the Entente. Why does Gen. Foch keep attacking now without any respite? Is he compelled to do so by the reinforcements promised by the United States? Does he fear that before the reinforcements come to Europe or before they have gone through the necessary training the Germans may launch an offensive? Is he compelled to act by the general situation of the Entente or by French internal politics?"

"It is certain that he is driven on by an unavoidable necessity. Otherwise he would wait before sacrificing his last soldiers and thus increasing the frightful losses of France."

"The precise information we have concerning America's reliable supply of men is most reassuring. It proves how carefully our staff works out its calculations and wards off surprises."

**PLANNED TO ATTACK BRITISH.**

**German Plans Were Upset by Defeat on the Marne.**

By the Associated Press.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, Sept. 4 (delayed).—The discovery has been made that the Germans planned to attack the British in July on the Merville sector of the Lys, and that they gave up their programme because of the German failure in the Marne fighting.

**124,675 Tons for Britain.**

LONDON, Sept. 4.—British merchant shipping companies and entered for service in August amounted to 124,675 gross tons.

This announcement was made by the Admiralty to-night.

## HEROIC DEEDS IN FISMETTE FIGHTING

**Town Across Vesle From Fismes Is Held Only Under Merciless Fire.**

**RUNNERS SHOW VALOR**

**Pennsylvania Captain Gives Life to Save His Men From Rear Surprise.**

By FAYMOND G. CARROLL.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun and the Public Ledger.

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WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, Sept. 4.—What Jersey City is to New York in miniature Fismette is to Fismes. Instead of the broad, stately Hudson River intervening, there curls the narrow unobtrusive Vesle River, spanned by a shell riddled bridge, the continuation of its roadway being the main street of Fismette.

Five kilometers westward along the winding course of the river on the same north bank is the town of Bazoche. Fismette and Bazoche have been the scenes of desperate encounters between the German and French attacking German shock troops, and during the last month have changed hands several times.

Following instances of individual heroism chiefly center around Fismette, which has been under ceaseless enemy shell and machine gun fire, the French, especially the approach to the bridge, which is the only road back to the hospitals and for bringing up ammunition.

**Sergeants Save Wounded Man.**

Sergeant Ralph Orr of Dravosburg, Pa., showed extraordinary bravery, coolness and gallantry in Fismette. In addition to rescuing several wounded men, dragging them to safety away from a shot and shell swept area. With Sergeant Orr's men, the French cleared Fismette of snipers. Telling of one exploit he said:

"Guenter and I went after one of our men who was lying on the left bank and in the open. We got upon our hands and knees and crawling along tugged and hauled him into our line."

Private Michael Pether, Pittsburgh, is a runner who crossed the bridge under machine gun fire and swept by enemy bullets, including those from a large machine gun, which were coming down the street directly to the bridge.

He also escorted twenty-five of our wounded, walking with them one at a time across the bridge and apparently bearing a heavy load.

Private Fred Ott, a runner in the same outfit, carried messages between Fismes and Fismette for five days and nights, and was shot in the head.

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## OFFICIAL REPORTS OF THE BATTLES.

LONDON, Sept. 4.—The official statements of to-day on the fighting on the western front follow:

**FRENCH (NIGHT).—**Our troops, after having broken on the preceding days the stubborn resistance of the enemy, forced him to-day to retreat north of the Oise and on the Vesle and the Oise our advanced elements, on the heels of the enemy rear guards, have gone beyond Libermont and the outskirts of Emery-Hallon and occupied the Bois de l'Espérance.

Further south our line extends along Frenelle, Guiscard, Reuques, Grand-Mondecourt and Apilly. More to the east we crossed the Ailette and reached Marcellin, northeast of Mandi. The enemy left in our hands numerous prisoners, guns and material and considerable supplies.

Between the Ailette and the Aisne the battle continued on the plateau north of Libermont.

Menaced on his right flank, the enemy has retired north of the Vesle. Took Buey-le-Long and Moncel, north of Libermont.

Further to the right our troops, having crossed the Vesle on a front of thirty kilometers, advanced beyond Frenelle, Guiscard, Reuques, Grand-Mondecourt and Apilly. More to the east we crossed the Ailette and reached Marcellin, northeast of Mandi. The enemy left in our hands numerous prisoners, guns and material and considerable supplies.

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## HAAN'S DIVISION OUTFOUGH ENEMY

**Brilliant Work Done in Capture of Juvigny and Nearby Towns.**

**ALSO HEROES OF FISMES**

**Division Torpedoed on Tuscany Gets Its Revenge North of Soissons.**

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun from the London Times Service.

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WITH THE FRENCH ARMY, Sept. 4.—I spent some time yesterday with one of the Brigadier-Generals of the American division which took Juvigny, and from him learned how the division outfough and outmaneuvered the enemy. Afterward I went up to Juvigny and looked over the ground won by the Americans.

[Gen. March has identified the capture of Juvigny as the thirty-second division, under Major-Gen. Haan.]

This is a horribly bare and exposed spot. The town itself is perched partly on the side of a big ravine which has Juvigny, Terny-Sorny, Leury and Chavigny at its four corners, these towns being from one to two miles distant from each other.

From the wide plateau to the west the town is in full view from the Bethune road. All on a high ground, the town is a very good position. In addition there is a particularly formidable nest of machine guns north of the town, about half way between it and Montcauve Farm.

**Rager for More Fighting.**

The American division, after taking Fismes and there withstanding a severe bombardment, put in a few days resting. The resting place, however, was not beyond the range of the enemy's airplanes, especially at night. On the 27th they attacked with Mangin's army, and the next day attacked on their own account in the direction of Juvigny. They got some distance past the railroad, but were forced back. Next day they were again on the move, but were ordered to keep still.

On the 30th, having received a request for support from the French who were on the left, they received permission to resume operations, and at 3:30 they began to push forward toward the town from the north and south, having learned from experience that a direct frontal attack probably would be too difficult and costly.

As it turned out the advance on the left was also a difficult operation, because of the nest of machine guns posted, not opposite the Americans but on their left. Technically this nest was outside the scope of the American commander's orders, but it was necessary to shell it. Having found out at considerable risk to himself that it was absolutely necessary to reduce this resistance he finally brought his guns to bear on it.

**Captures His Father Again.**

On the right progress was easier because of the wooded country. The American division got behind the town, leaving two companies to do the cleaning up work. The rest of the division went on to capture the town, and at 3:30 they began to push forward toward the town from the north and south, having learned from experience that a direct frontal attack probably would be too difficult and costly.

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## YANKEE FORCE FELT, SAYS CROWN PRINCE

**Declares He Never Considered American Negligible Factor in War.**

**"CANNOT ANNIHILATE US"**

**Assures Interviewer U. S. Men Do Not Know for What They Are Fighting.**

AMSTERDAM, Sept. 4.—The German Crown Prince in an interview published in the Budapest Asztet published that the Americans on the west front are an important factor in the war.

He declared that he had never considered them a negligible factor, and recognized that the presence of the Americans in the west front was making itself felt on the west front.

"But," he added, "however many of them may come, they cannot annihilate us."

The German idea of victory he defined as an intention "to hold our own and not let ourselves be vanquished."

The Crown Prince is quoted as saying that this was clear to him the moment England entered the war.

The Crown Prince denied that he was a "freer," and continued:

"If Germany, as we should not have chosen this war, no moment could have been more unfavorable for Germany."

In reply to the question as to how he thought the end of the war would come he replied: "Through the enemy perceiving that they are not equal to the winning of their colossal stakes and that they cannot win as much as they are bound to lose."

Again referring to the American forces, the Crown Prince said: